

# Health Officer Gives Tips for Sun Gazing

K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D., County Health Officer

Smog and fog permitting, a partial solar eclipse will be visible in Los Angeles County on July 20 between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m. daylight saving time. Maximum coverage, 26 per cent, of the sun's diameter by the disc of the moon will occur at 2 p.m., according to information released by local observatories. Since the eclipse is an infrequent and interesting phenomenon, many adults will look at it and will permit or even encourage children to

look at it without realizing that the viewing may result in serious damage to the eyes.

It is extremely dangerous to gaze directly at the sun, or at an eclipse of the sun, with the naked eye. Sunglasses, smoked glass, welders' goggles, gelatin filters, black pieces of color film, and cross polarizing or neutral density filters do not afford adequate protection against infrared or ultraviolet rays.

Like an eclipse, these gadgets may filter out or darken the visible light or glare from

the sun—thereby enabling the individual to look at it without squinting, but they do not filter out the invisible radiation that is so hazardous to the eyes, particularly the infrared rays.

MOREOVER, it may be equally dangerous to view the sun or an eclipse through the rangefinder or the viewfinder of a camera, or through a telescope or binoculars or a single or twin lens reflex camera. Any of these may act like a common magnifying glass focusing the searing rays into

the viewer's pupil which are then focused on the retina with resultant impairment of vision or blindness.

Relatively safe viewing of the eclipse is possible if the individual uses two or three thicknesses of ordinary developed black and white photographic film — it must be developed film — sandwiched together. Even so, it is advisable to look at the eclipse for short periods only — no more than a few seconds at a time — before turning the eyes away

from the sun's image for a rest.

Developed color film provides no protection whatsoever because the protective substance (silver) has been bleached out of it.

A COMPLETELY safe way to view the eclipse is by indirect projection. Of the several indirect methods suggested by experts, the simplest one utilizes two sheets of any size white cardboard. A small hole is punched in the center of one sheet with a pin or needle, and this sheet, in effect becomes the lens of a pinhole camera. With the individual's back to the sun, the projection of the eclipse can be

watched by letting the light shine through the pinhole on to the second sheet of white cardboard.

The image will be equally sharp whether the second sheet is held close to or away from the pinhole. The farther the cardboards are apart, the larger but less bright the image will be.

If the pinhole camera or some other indirect viewing apparatus is too much trouble to make, the eclipse can always be watched on television. In the case of children, unless they are closely supervised this is probably the safest way of all.

## Signal Changes Approved for Coast Highway

The Board of Supervisors has approved an agreement with the state road division for modification of traffic signals and installation of safety lighting on Pacific Coast Highway.

The project will include intersections at Walnut Street, Eshelman Avenue, Oak Street, Narbonne Avenue, Cypress Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The county's share of the costs is expected to be about \$38,000.

## Wren Urges Republicans 'Work, Give'

Attorney John Wren, guest speaker at the recent meeting of the Torrance Republican Club, urged members to "Talk Republican... Work Republican... Give Republican."

Wren cited the hard work and funds expended by the Torrance Republican Club during the 1962 gubernatorial election as one of the factors which aided Nixon in carrying Torrance despite a three-to-two registration in favor of the Democratic party.

"PEOPLE AND money win campaigns," Wren stated.

He urged Republicans to give freely of their time and money to preserve America's free enterprise system and individual dignity and freedom.

Wren assured club members that if Republicans generally contribute time and funds similar to that of the Torrance Republican Club, the 1964 Republican Presidential nominee will carry California's 40 electoral votes to assure victory.

## Secretaries Will Tour King Harbor

The dinner meeting of the South Bay Chapter of National Secretaries Assn. tonight at the Half-Way House in Torrance will be preceded by a tour of Redondo King Harbor. Persons attending will meet at Fisherman's Wharf at 7.

Mrs. Herschel Menager, president, will announce awards received by the South Bay Chapter at the California Division meeting held recently in Los Angeles.

Reservations and further information are available at 477-2051 or 671-8341.

## Road Work Set

An allocation for the improvement of Avalon Boulevard from Sepulveda Boulevard to Bayport Street has been voted by the county supervisors. The allocation totals \$18,000.

The project consists of installation of new pavement to join recently completed curbs and gutters in the area.

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